

October 4th 1918.

My dearest Marie:-

It has been two days now since I have been able to write to you and I feel that I have been very neglectful but I have been busy dear. So busy. Day before yesterday, in addition to my duties in the operating room I was made Detachment commander, and now have the responsibilities of a command of over 200 men. It has been the rush and work incident to getting started on this job that has made me so unusually busy.

An orderly just came in and told me that a case has been entered so I must leave for the operating room. I am sorry dearest, but I will come back to my office and finish this later. Goodbye dear for a few minutes. I love you.

Well here I am back again. The case was a simple appendicitis and you know how long I generally spend on

those. I didn't want any on this case as I was anxious to get back and complete this letter to you. It is finished and the man is now sure to get well so I have done another little bit for Uncle Sam today. He certainly needs all the men he can get.

I got two dear letters from you yesterday Honey, and six today - the latest being under date of September 7th, so I will very likely soon receive word that the box I sent to you has arrived O.K. I will be very glad as I am anxious to know what you will think of the things I sent. I am going to be able to send the next box, containing the lace, doilies, and Chemise and handkerchiefs, in a very short time now. The woman promised them some time next week or the week after, so I will

be able to get them to you on
Christmas all O.K. I am sending
again in this letter, as I have in
several others, my congratulations
and dearest love to my darling
daughter, for her birthday. This
should reach you on that date.
Give her my dearest love and
lots of kisses. Tell her Daddy
thinks of her every minute and
does long to see her and Bub, so
much. I don't think it will be
long now. We are even beginning
to bat over here, on the duration
of the war. Goes that sound
foolish to you dearest? News
today is wonderful. It is every
day in fact. Lus and Arruiteres
have been captured as have Cambrai
and St. Quentin, all of them strong
holds of the Hindenburg line. The
Hindenburg line is now practically
a thing of past history and

it is generally believed that the Germans have no line of defense like it between it and the border. I confidently expect to see France and possibly Belgium cleared of Germans this year. Maybe not, but it is quite possible, and I fully expect to see it.

Now I will tell you about my new job. As I said, I am still on operating service, for which I am very glad; but now I am company commander and have full charge of all the men in our outfit. It is a good sized proposition too, and keeps me busy all day long.

That I am busy all day is another source of Thanksgiving to me for there is nothing harder than sitting around to

twiddle your thumbs and wait
for time to pass. And there
will be plenty of that this
winter unless I am very
much mistaken. I will have
something to do all winter
that will keep me good and busy
and I am really very thank-
ful for it. It is mighty in-
teresting work and unless I
am very much mistaken I
am going to have the hearty
cooperation of the entire company.

My health is perfect, dear.
You must never worry about
that as there is not a
healthier man in the A. E. F.
than me. I have a little oc-
casional attack of some sort
or other but every body
does and it can be fully

expected. I am surely grateful
for good health, which is my
constant possession over here.

Well dearest I will close
now. It is after four and I
have some matters to attend to
at the mess's quarters before
mess. I love you dear. God
bless you all and keep you
from harm. I love you.

Daddy.

pt Lt. A. B. Smith M.C.

Evac. Hosp. #2. U.S.A.

Amer. E. F. France,
